



St Stephen's Gate Medical Partnership Patient Participation Group Newsletter Spring 2025



Congratulations Dr Cafferty

Dr Teresa Cafferty, a GP founder member of St Stephen's Gate (SSG) Medical Practice in 2006, is retiring at the end of March. She kindly spoke to the PPG about her work life, welcoming us into her office at SSG where she has welcomed so many patients over the last twenty years.

What a varied career she has had, with changes that expanded her role and responsibilities. Her first clinical appointment after medical training was in South Africa, where she spent two years working in Johannesburg in township clinics. 'That was tough' she said.

She returned to England to a GP Practice in north London, from where she moved to Unthank Road surgery in Norwich in 2002. In 2006, Unthank Road, Victoria Street, and West Pottergate surgeries formed a partnership to create SSG Medical Practice. Dr Cafferty, with other members of staff, helped oversee the construction of a brand



Digging the foundations for SSG in 2006

new building from the ground up for the new practice. She was a GP partner from the start, involved with others in the development and running the practice, although two years ago she resigned as a partner, devoting herself only to seeing patients.

Another expansion came with the merger of Newmarket Road Surgery and SSG seven years ago. 'More lovely colleagues to work with', she said.

APPOINTMENTS

If you book an appointment and find you no longer need it, please ring 01603 228686 and **press 1 for the cancellation line.**

This means the appointment can then be freed up for someone else and this way we all benefit.

A creative turn for SSG came in 2017 with the addition of a day surgical service, N2S (Norwich & Norfolk Day Surgery Unit). 'We were looking at things that other practices were doing, saw what was possible, and took it from there'. Dr Cafferty was appointed its first Medical Director. N2S now has two surgical theatres, offering cataract surgery, hernia repair, and other day surgical services. All are NHS-funded and use nursing and administrative staff employed by the partnership and hospital surgeons. N2S is entirely separate from the GP services but the practice benefits enormously from the expertise of our N2S colleagues. 'I've learned from it', Dr Cafferty added, 'I have learned a lot about eyes'.

We asked how SSG doctors were feeling about the funding of GP services going forward. 'We try to make sure that we are only undertaking work that we are funded to do, which is why patients can sometimes be told that there are certain things they will need to go back to their hospital doctor for e.g. test results that have been requested in the hospital. We are continuously reviewing our processes and like to think that we work as cost effectively as possible.'

And now, with retirement? 'I'll miss seeing patients & meeting new patients. I'll have the summer to see.' Gardening, walking, seeing friends and family, came to mind, and perhaps volunteering down the line. 'It's been a fabulous 23 years in Norwich', Dr Cafferty reflected, 'incredibly challenging but going from strength to strength.' She paused. 'When I think of when I started, about how different it was back then, how I went out in the car on a call, on a cold night, looking for an address in a block of flats in the dark, with a map in one hand and torch in another, both hands on the steering wheel.' She smiled. 'I love SSG. I feel glad to be handing over to safe hands.'

Above all, Dr Cafferty said, she most values seeing her patients. That has always been at the heart of her work.

All Dr Cafferty's colleagues at the practice will miss her enormously. She has been a great friend and a knowledgeable and supportive colleague over her many years in the surgery. They feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to build on the excellent work she has been involved in and wish her a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

The PPG wishes Dr Cafferty a very happy retirement and gratitude for all she has done for patients and the practice. Thank you.

Newsletters

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